

THE ALCOA HOUR

September 1, 1957

"NO LICENSE TO KILL"

by

Alvin Boretz

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"NO LICENSE TO KILL"

ACT ONE

OPENING

FADE UP: COLOR PEACOCK SLIDE

ANNCR.

This program is being tele-  
vised in compatible color,  
pioneered and developed by  
RCA.

FADE TO BLACK

(INTO OPENING FILM)

OPENING FILM

OUT CUE FOR FILM

ANNCR.

And now -- for the best in  
Sunday evening drama...

MUSIC: THEME

The Alcoa Hour!

DISSOLVE TO: GOVERNOR RIBICOFF

"NO LICENSE TO KILL"

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

GOV RIBICOFF

Good evening. I am Abraham Ribicoff..Governor...State of Connecticut. I've come here with a true story. I ask you to watch and listen. I ask you to think about it. I ask you to remember it. Last Labor Day weekend, \_\_\_\_\_ people died. Suddenly..violently. Some of you knew them..perhaps watched them die. Victims of the plague that claims a hundred of us almost every day. But the grief is not yet over. For again, this Labor Day weekend... some of you who are looking at me this very moment ...also will die.

FILM: PLANE ROARING OFF RUNWAY

GOV RIBICOFF

The signs of our time. Ways to get places..quickly..efficiently.

FILM: STREAMLINER ROARING DOWN TRACK.

GOV RIBICOFF

Anywhere... everywhere.

FILM: CARS COMING OFF ASSEMBLY  
LINE.

GOV RIBICOFF

In all of these...science and  
ingenuity have reached a new  
high. Miracle off the assembly  
line, the machine has reached  
near perfection. Yet, one  
problem remains unsolved.  
Man's control... of man him-  
self.

FILM: MERRITT PARKWAY LOOKING DOWN  
FROM OVERPASS.

GOV RIBICOFF

This is one of the countless  
places the problem shows  
itself... the Merritt Parkway  
in my State of Connecticut.  
One of the original super-  
highways in the country and  
still one of its finest...  
it runs for a distance of  
40 miles. Tonight you will  
see the anatomy of an acci-  
dent which happened on this

(MORE)

I-3

GOV RIBICOFF (CONT'D)

Parkway but which could  
have happened anywhere.

FILM:

THE FATAL CURVE

PULLING BACK TO

CURVE SIGN

GOV RIBICOFF

It took place at this very  
spot. A curve \_\_\_\_\_ miles  
\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

It was an accident that killed  
people. Nice people.

Watch it closely..for in a  
very real sense..you who are  
about to die...will be looking  
at yourselves.

POLICE CAR GOING AFTER

VIOLATOR

SUPER FLIPS (CREDITS)

DISSOLVE TO: MILLER HOUSE  
GUESTS ARE LEAVING. MILLERS  
WAVE GOODBYE. RETURN INTO  
HOUSE.

GOV RIBICOFF

It would happen in the morning.  
The start of the Labor Day  
weekend. Two cars would meet  
in the accident. These were  
the people in the first car.  
Howard Miller..thirty six  
years old. His profession..  
the law. Recently, he had  
opened his own office. Eleven  
years ago...upon discharge  
from the Navy...he had married  
Vivian... his high school  
sweetheart.

HOWARD

Some going away party they  
threw us. Our house and  
our food.

VI

It was a surprise.

(LOOKING AROUND)

Look at all this - and I  
still have packing to do.

(HOWARD CATCHES HER)

Honey...



HOWARD

I promised you, didn't I?

A Fall vacation?

VI

Everyone's coming back..

but we're going.

HOWARD

That's my strategy.

VI

Are you sure those cabins  
have running water. After  
three years I want a real  
vacation... not a camping  
trip.

HOWARD

You'll love it. You won't  
ever want to leave.

VI

Don't you count on it. I  
like to go away but I like  
to come home again, too.

HOWARD

Do you realize at this time  
tomorrow night... we'll be  
sleeping in New Hampshire.  
I mean... do you really  
realize it?



VI

I realize it. Really.

HOWARD

I get such a kick out of  
just thinking about it.

It's going to be wonderful.

(SEES PAUL)

Take a look.

CUT TO:

PAUL ON TRICYCLE.

VI

Ohhh...

HOWARD

What are you doing?

PAUL

I want to take this.

VI

I thought I told you not  
to get out of bed.

PAUL

I want to put my bike in  
the car.

VI

We'll see about it.

(HE RIDES BY HER)

(SHE FOLLOWS HIM)

Paul!

(HOWARD CATCHES HER)

(MORE)

VI (CONT'D)

Paul, you get to bed right  
away!

GOV RIBICOFF

The Miller Family. In the  
morning... the long awaited  
vacation would begin.

DISSOLVE TO:

HOTEL ROOM. NIGHT.  
GRIMES IS ON PHONE.

The driver of the second car  
was to be Ralph Grimes. He  
was forty-six years old. A  
widower... the father of two  
children... and had lived in  
Connecticut all his life.

GRIMES

(INTO PHONE)

I can't cut the price any  
further, Mr. Railson, I'd  
be out of business. I  
understood you'd let me  
know tonight. I'm leav-  
ing New Haven in the  
morning. ... Of course  
I want the business...  
that's why I came up here.  
Well, could you give me  
some... I see.

(DAUGHTER ENTERS)

DOROTHY

Daddy...

GRIMES

(INTO PHONE)

All right, Mr. Railson, I'll call you in the morning before I leave. Right. Good-night.

(HANGS UP SLOWLY)

Sorry about that, honey. I was expecting that call. No more business tonight.

(GLANCES AT HIS WATCH)

Say, isn't it time for you to get back to the dorm before they lock you out? It's getting pretty late.

DOROTHY

I had a good time tonight.

GRIMES

So did I. That's a good restaurant.

DOROTHY

Can't you get up here more often? I never see you any more.

GRIMES

I'll try, Dorrie. But I'm not worried about you. You look fine. College was made to order for you. Or is it just living away from your brother and me?

DOROTHY

That's the only part about it I don't like. Dad...

GRIMES

Hmm?

DOROTHY

Is everything all right?

GRIMES

Why shouldn't it be?

DOROTHY

You look worried. This whole trip. Is the business all right?

GRIMES

(SMILES)

Your mother used to ask me that. She'd worry... then she'd blame it all on me. It's never a hundred percent, Dorrie, but it'll straighten out. There... that's an honest answer.

DOROTHY

I hate to see you go home.

GRIMES

Well, I'll be glad to get  
back... keep an eye on  
your brother. Goodnight,  
honey.

(SHE EXITS)

(HE CALLS AFTER HER)

I won't call in the morn-  
ing. I'm leaving early.  
Goodnight.

(HE CLOSES DOOR. GOES BACK  
TO DESK)

GOV RIBICOFF

They were all nice people.  
It was impossible that  
tomorrow... two of them...  
would be dead.

DISSOLVE TO:

MILLER HOUSE. MORNING.

The morning began. The day  
was sunny. Perfect for  
driving. It was now eight  
forty-five. The accident  
would happen at eleven thirty-  
one.

HOWARD

(ENTERING WITH SUITCASES)

I guess that just about  
does it. How're you  
coming, Vi?

PAUL

(RUNNING INTO HIM)

Can I carry one, Pop?

HOWARD

Watch out, will you, Paul!

(HE EXITS)

PAUL

(TO GRANDMOTHER)

Grandma, aren't you going  
on vacation?

MOTHER

Maybe over New Year's.

PAUL

When Daddy was like me... did  
you take him on vacation,  
too?

MOTHER

Of course. That's why your  
Daddy likes New Hampshire so  
much. We used to go there  
all the time.

(VI ENTERS CARRYING DRESSES)

VI

Mother, can you get these  
in?

MOTHER

Let's see.

PAUL

(RUNNING TO HER)

Mom, can I help?

VI

(BRUSHING HIM ASIDE)

No, honey, not now.

(PAUL EXITS TO BEDROOM)

(WOMEN WORK WITH SUITCASE)

(HOWARD ENTERS)

HOWARD

Aren't you ready yet? We'll  
never get out of here.

VI

We're not running for a train.  
Just a minute.

HOWARD

C'mon... we're late. Hurry  
up.

MOTHER

Don't stand there talking.  
Come over and sit on this.

HOWARD

What are you doing? Here...  
(HE LOCKS BAG)

We're not moving, Vi. What  
have you got in here?

VI

You take that out to the  
car. I'll look.



HOWARD

(AS HE EXITS)

Where's Paul?

MOTHER

Paul, they're waiting. Paul

...what are you doing?

(HE RIDES OUT ON BIKE)

PAUL

I want to take my bike.

VI

We can't.

PAUL

I want it. You promised.

You said so.

(HOWARD ENTERS)

HOWARD

Aren't you ready yet?

VI

He wants the bike.

HOWARD

I'll take it.

VI

There's no room.

HOWARD

Let him have it.

(HE EMBRACES HIS MOTHER)

So long, Mom. Take care  
of yourself.

MOTHER

Goodbye, dear. Have a good  
time.

VI

Goodbye, Mother.

MOTHER

Have fun, Vi.

PAUL

(RUNNING AFTER HOWARD)

Hey Pop!

VI

Paul, kiss your Grandmother  
goodbye.

PAUL

All right.

(HE KISSES HER)

(RUNNING OFF)

Hey Pop!

(THEY ALL EXIT, CALLING GOODBYES)

MOTHER

(FROM DOORWAY)

Howard... call me when you  
get there.

HOWARD

Don't worry.

(THEY CALL GOODBYES)

(FAMILY IS IN CAR)

SOUND: CAR STARTING..REVVING UP

MOTHER

Have a good time.

(THEY CALL GOODBYES AGAIN)

DISSOLVE TO:

HOTEL ROOM.

GRIMES PICKS UP PHONE..TALKS  
INTO IT.

GRIMES

(FAINTLY AUDIBLE..UNDER NARRATION)

Let me have the garage  
please...

(HE WAITS)

..hello..this is Mr.  
Grimes in four ninety  
two..yes, I'm checking  
out..

(LOOKING AT RECEIPT)

...the receipt number is  
B three four seven two...  
it's a gray Dodge...bring  
the car to the front  
please. And I'd like you  
to gas it up. Check the  
tires carefully..twenty  
eight all around.

(STARTS TO HANG UP..JIGGLES  
HOOK)

Operator..get me 3-7641  
please.

GOV RIBICOFF

It was 9:30. An ordinary  
morning. And for Ralph  
Grimes..a disappointing one.  
He had called his customer..  
but the answer had been the  
same. No sale.

GOV RIBICOFF

He was a careful man. He'd never had an accident. He didn't want any.

GRIMES

Hello, Dorrie. ... I'm not keeping you from class, am I? Good. I'm a little delayed myself... business. No, I didn't get the order ...but there's always a chance. Well, you take care of yourself. I'll try to be back up here soon. If not, you come home for a long weekend. Right. Goodbye, sweetheart.

(HE HANGS UP)

DISSOLVE TO:

FILM: EXT. BARRACKS

CUT TO:

INT. LIEUT MARCHESE'S OFFICE.

TYLER IS ENTERING.

WE HEAR RADIO OFFICER IN B.G.

GOV RIBICOFF

These were the neutrals.

The men in the middle.

State Policeman Sam Tyler.

Thirty four years old.

Eight years on the force.

Married..two children.

(MORE)

GOV RIBICOFF (CONT'D)

At the time of the accident,  
he would be riding the west  
patrol... from Norwalk to  
Portchester... at the New  
York State line.

(HE CROSSES TO LT. MARCHESE)

Also to be involved was his  
superior... Lieutenant Louis  
D. Marchese, Commanding  
Officer, Station G, Westport  
State Police Barracks...  
himself once the innocent  
victim of an accident. Three  
months in the hospital.  
Fourteen broken bones... a  
skull fracture... a  
dislocated shoulder.

LIEUTENANT

(HANDING REPORT TO TYLER)

I've approved your report  
on the Lennox crash. After  
your tour, check on the  
inquest date, will you,  
please.

TYLER

Yes, sir.

(HE EXITS TO RADIO ROOM)

CUT TO:

RADIO ROOM.

RADIO OFFICER

Signal ninety six from New  
Jersey is withdrawn. 1955  
Mercury convertible...  
color red. Station G...  
off...

(TYLER MAKES NOTATION)

G calling nine G... investi-  
gate abandoned car... three  
miles west of Long Ridge Road  
... New Mexico registration,  
six seven four V... Victor...  
Station G... off.

(HE CLICKS OFF)

(GIVES REPORT TO TYLER)

Have a weather report.

TYLER

I better get my water pump  
checked. I think she's  
starting to leak.

RADIO OFFICER

Must be the way you drive.

TYLER

(GLANCING AT REPORT)

Clear all day.

RADIO OFFICER

Yeah. And watch the fatals.

TYLER

Optimist.

RADIO OFFICER

You know a way to stop them?  
Day like this... open road...  
clear sailing... nice holiday  
... they'll pour it on. Just  
get ready to pull them out.

DISSOLVE TO:

FILM

(THE MILLER FAMILY IN CAR)

(SOUND: MOTOR PURRING)

MUSIC: IN

GOV RIBICOFF

One hour before the crash...  
The Miller family was on a  
tributary road which would  
lead them onto the Parkway.  
They were driving a black  
four door sedan.

DISSOLVE TO CAR

HOWARD

Hey, Navigator... check  
the map.

PAUL

I want to.

HOWARD

Okay... you both do it.

VI

(UNFOLDING MAP)

I'm glad you trust me with  
this.